

# Vagabonds vanquished as Lambie stars for Kirk

## RUGBY

BY NORMAN HALL

CONSCIOUS that their visitors The Vagabonds, had had a long journey from the Isle of Man via Manchester Airport, Ormskirk were keen to begin the game at a fast pace and on the front foot.

Having beaten second place Southport last week Vagabonds could not be taken lightly.

Lock forward Tom Travis gathered the high kick off ball and set up a quick ruck that was moved through the forwards and then out to winger Jack Whisker on the short side.

His pace took him clear to score in the corner to give the home side the early positive start they were looking for.

Vagabonds quickly gathered themselves and made Ormskirk work hard for any field position they managed to achieve.

A kick to touch by fly half Nat Wildman brought a Vagabonds line out in their 22.

Although well won by the visitors, their clearing kick was charged down and gathered by flanker Martin Rothwell and Ormskirk were close to scoring only to have the ball stripped out of hands as they were over the line. Following a scrappy phase of play when neither side could control the ball, Ormskirk won a scrum against the head in Vagabond's 22.

Number eight Glyn Roberts picked the ball up and went for the line only to be held up.

Further efforts by the forwards to go over were repelled by a stubborn Vagabonds defence.

The ball reached fly half Nat Wildman who released his backs with an audacious back of the hand pass and allowed centre Ben McCarthy to cross the line.

A conversion by Alex Lambie for 12-0.

Ormskirk maintained the pressure, not allowing Vagabonds to gain a foothold in the game.

A penalty kick to touch gave the home side a line out opportunity.

Vagabonds were expecting a catch and drive but the ball was offloaded slickly to Jonny Gorst only for him to be stopped a metre out.

The ball was quickly recycled and a short pass found Chris Tymms on the burst to crash over from close range, the try again converted by Lambie, 19-0.

Vagabonds then obtained their first score when Ormskirk were penalised for not releasing the ball in the tackle and the kick was calmly slotted over for 19-3.

The visitors began to have a solid passage of possession but were unable to make much ground into the opposition half due to the dogged Ormskirk defence.

The ball was then dropped by the Vagabonds backs and pounced upon by the ever aware Martin Rothwell.

Moving the ball quickly left to Jack Whisker saw full back Andy Healy take the ball at pace and then give a slick inside pass for Nat Wildman to score unchallenged under the posts.

The conversion by Alex Lambie brought the interval score to 26-3 and a bonus match point for the fourth try.

Early Vagabonds pressure after the restart gave them a second penalty to reduce the arrears to 26-6 but also saw Ormskirk reduced to fourteen men as back row Glyn Roberts received a ten minute sin binning for persistent infringing at the ruck.

Vagabonds worked to make their man advantage pay and Ormskirk, beginning to give away penalties, were under increasing pressure; fortunately their defence was up to the task and held.

Once restored to fifteen players Ormskirk began to reassert themselves.



● Ormskirk Rugby First XV vs Vagabonds - Andy Healy sets the line moving

The forwards took the game to the visitors, with Gorst, Tymms and Roberts all being stopped just short of the line on successive drives.

With Vagabonds defenders having to move in to stop these drives, space opened up on the right and Andy Healey received the ball out there to score, converted by Alex Lambie for

33-6.

Ormskirk again turned the screw from the kick off, moving the ball through hands both ways.

Forward Matt Tickle took the ball out wide and provided fast recycled ball which produced a short pass for Glyn Roberts to burst clean through the defenders and score unchallenged

under the posts.

Another Alex Lambie conversion increased the lead to 40-6.

The home side kept on coming at Vagabonds as the clock ticked down.

They again won a scrum against the head with Glyn Roberts picking up at the back and running the ball at the defensive heart.

Quick support produced cleanly recycled ball that was moved wide for winger Jack Whisker to score his second and the final try of the game.

47-6 in Ormskirk's favour following Alex Lambie's conversion saw the final whistle blown.

This seven try haul moved Ormskirk up two places in the league to fifth.

Ahead of them are next week's opponents Dukinfield, although beaten by Ormskirk earlier in the season, they are a much tougher task on their own turf and Ormskirk will need to be at their best to earn a result.



● Ben McCarthy under pressure.

# Bank not in crisis despite run ending

## FOOTBALL

BY PAUL SERGEANT

HESKETH Bank's mini revival which saw them win three league matches on the trot came to an end last Saturday as they lost by the only goal of the game at home to Garstang.

Manager Evergreen made just two changes to the side with the experienced Paul Paynter coming in to replace the unavailable Josh Dunroe at right back and Stefan Dill replaced Rory McDaid in goal.

On a difficult surface due to the heavy overnight rain and a downpour a couple of hours before the kick-off it was the visitors who settled into their stride the quickest.

They were rewarded in the eighth minute with what proved to be the winning goal.

Right Back Danny McGahon overlapping to receive a pass from striker Kyle Lewis before tucking the ball under Dill from a tight angle.

They should have increased their lead a couple of minutes later but Lewis headed a cross from Ryan Dodd wide.

Gradually Hesketh Bank began to get more of the ball and in the 22nd minute striker Yves Zama thought he was going to equalise from close range but was blocked by McGahon.

Unfortunately he was hurt in the tackle and had to be replaced by Mo Lulat.

On 35 minutes it looked like the home side had been given an opportunity to level the scores when the assistant referee indicated he thought that a tackle from a Garstang defender in the box on David Hogg warranted a penalty.

However Brian Mabhena's spot kick was brilliantly saved one handed by keeper Keith Brindle.

During the second half Hesketh Bank had the lion's share of possession but Garstang defended really well and Brindle was rarely called upon to make a save.

Winger Will Threlkeld was brought on to replace full back Paynter and he immediately forced Brindle to make a save with a shot from 20 yards.

Apart from that and a goal mouth scramble near the end it wasn't going to be the home team's day and the visitors deservedly left with all three points in a disappointing match for the faithful supporters.

The only good thing was that other results went Hesketh Bank's way and they remain three points ahead of bottom placed Thornton Cleveleys with just six games to play.

This weekend they face second in the table Blackpool Wrens Rovers at the Centenary Sports Ground which kicks off at 3pm.

Meanwhile the reserves remain top of their division with a 4-2 victory at Blackburn side Mill Hill St. Peters thanks to goals from John Ascroft, Mike Howarth, Tom Smethurst and Yuseff Kaffo.

Go to [www.heskethbankafc.co.uk](http://www.heskethbankafc.co.uk) for details.



● Man of the match Kevin Cox seen here earlier in the season at Blackpool Wren Rovers